To: CN=Karen Schwinn/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Bruce

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N=Tom Hagler/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sam

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Cc: []

From: CN=Erin Foresman/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US

Sent: Tue 5/24/2011 9:30:28 PM

Subject: Fw: Invitation to Participate in BDCP Working Groups http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/watershed/sfbay-delta/index.html

Click here

here

working.groups@resources.ca.gov

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here

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Hi Karen and Everyone,

I received two of these messages, one of them even from Jerry Meral!! (ghost written), and was wondering if we are considering participation in these public work groups. The work groups are identified in the attached document. I pasted ones that may be of particular interest below. Should we discuss by email? We're supposed to respond with our interest in joining in two days -- nice lead time eh?

Does our participation in these public meetings support meeting our goals for the BDCP process?

They aren't in any particular order.

Water quality modeling in South Delta. Contra Costa Water District has questioned some of the assumptions used in computer modeling performed for BDCP of water quality in the South Delta. The first meeting will review modeling, the assumptions used, and possible additional modeling efforts. Subsequent meetings will further consider these issues. The first meeting will be in early June. Work should be completed by the end of July.

Biological goals and objectives. This working group has already been formed, and consists of scientists chosen for their expertise in designing goals and objectives for habitat conservation plans. The working group is advised by Gary Bobker of The Bay Institute, Jason Peltier of Westlands Water District, John Cain of American Rivers, and Cindy Kao of Santa Clara Valley Water District. Joint meetings of the working group and advisors will be posted on the BDCP website, and are open to the public. The working group plans on completing its work by the end of June.

Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan. The goal of the group will be to better define a fisheries enhancement plan in the Yolo Bypass, while protecting waterfowl and other bypass values and preserving the flood capacity of the Bypass. The first meeting of the working group will be in late May. The group will meet every two weeks, and is expected to complete its work by mid-July.

Cache Slough habitat. Enhanced aquatic habitat in the region of Cache Slough should help provide habitat for delta smelt and other fish and wildlife species. The restored habitat may also benefit waterfowl. Participants in this working group will be expected to be familiar with relevant sections of Chapter 3 of BDCP. The first meeting will be in mid-June. Work should be completed by the end of August.

Adaptive range of water operations criteria. Adaptive ranges define the flexibility allowed by applicable permits in operating water projects, depending on the effectiveness of the conservation measures, current information, and other factors. Participants will be asked to consider adaptive range proposals developed by state and federal agencies. This is one of the more challenging subjects, and further revisions of the working description and timeline may be forthcoming. The first meeting will be held in mid-July. Work should be completed by the end of September.

South Delta Habitat. The BDCP may include up to 10,000 acres of floodplain restoration, separate from habitat restoration in the Yolo Bypass. It is believed that juvenile salmon survival can be improved by providing rearing habitat in the lower San Joaquin River and the South Delta. Providing this habitat may also improve flood safety in the South Delta and along the San Joaquin River. This working group will consider proposals to achieve compatible habitat and flood projects in this area. The first meeting will be held in late July. Work should be completed by the end of October.

BDCP relationship to San Joaquin River Restoration Program. The San Joaquin River Restoration program contemplates the recapture of water released for salmon in the San Joaquin River. Pursuant to the Settlement, Reclamation is working on a plan to recapture this water for subsequent use by the Friant division long-term contractors. The Bureau of Reclamation is attempting to resolve this issue. Progress of this effort will be assessed by the end of the summer, and a determination will be made whether a working group on this issue would be useful.

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. If the intake to a Delta facility is built nearby, this refuge might be impacted. The working group will consider ways to minimize such impact. The first meeting will be held in mid-August. Work should be completed by the end of September.

Conveyance facilities – size and configuration issues. A variety of different sizes and configurations of conveyance facilities are being considered for inclusion in the BDCP. The working group will be asked to consider these alternatives, their advantages and disadvantages, and discuss criteria that may be used for the eventual selection of an alternative facility. The first meeting will be held in mid-August.

Erin Foresman
Environmental Scientist & Policy Coordinator,
US EPA Region 9 C/O Army Corps of Engineers

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http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/watershed/sfbay-delta/index.html

-----Forwarded by Erin Foresman/R9/USEPA/US on 05/24/2011 02:14PM -----

To: Erin Foresman/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

From: The Bay Delta Conservation Plan <info@bdcponline.com>

Date: 05/24/2011 10:41AM

Subject: Invitation to Participate in BDCP Working Groups

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News Alert May 24, 2011

Invitation to Participate in BDCP Working Groups

The California Natural Resources Agency has implemented a new outreach process to assist in the completion of a public draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan for formal public review and comment. The objective of the outreach process is to engage a broad array of stakeholders in the timely resolution of remaining BDCP issues. Given the level of public interest and work effort required, there are multiple ways for the public to engage: by participating in upcoming BDCP public meetings and by participating in or attending working group meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

Working Groups

A series of working groups are being developed to help resolve key issues in order to complete the draft BDCP. Click here to read the invitation to participate in the BDCP and learn how working groups are being organized, topics covered and general schedule of activities.

After reviewing the materials, please reply to working.groups@resources.ca.gov by midnight, May 27, to indicate your interest in participation in any of the working groups.

Notice of working group meetings and materials will be available on the BDCP website. Please check back weekly as the information will be updated frequently.
Public Meetings
The first of a series of public meetings will take place on June 15. Click here to view a preliminary meeting agenda. Public meetings will be held every four to six weeks to provide the public with information as the draft BDCP is developed.
For a general description of the BDCP management and decision-making process, click here.
California Natural Resources Agency (916) 653-5656 (916) 653-8102 fax
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